



## SCHOOL UPDATES & REMINDERS

### **IMPORTANT COVID-19 UPDATES:**

Please see attached to this week's newsletter a letter from Public Health England clarifying when a person requires a Coronavirus test. Please read the contents carefully and share with all adults involved in providing care for your child.

This is particularly important where there are shared care arrangements. In this instance, a child belongs to more than one household and must immediately isolate (and not come to school) as soon as a member of either household presents with symptoms of Coronavirus. It is crucial that communication between households is timely and effective so as to protect all members of our community.

### **PARENT DROP-INS:**

Due to the new restrictions in place with regards parental access to the school site, and in response to the fact that many of our pupils missed such a significant amount of time at school last academic year, staff will be making themselves available on the following days for a quick telephone drop in for any parents wanting to take advantage of this offer.

Reception Class – Mrs Joyce	Monday 12 <sup>th</sup> October Monday 19 <sup>th</sup> October
Year 1 – Mrs Sanderson	Tuesday 13 <sup>th</sup> October Tuesday 20 <sup>th</sup> October
Year 2 – Mrs Pomeroy	Tuesday 13 <sup>th</sup> October Tuesday 20 <sup>th</sup> October
Year 3 – Mrs Ledger	Monday 12 <sup>th</sup> October Monday 19 <sup>th</sup> October
Year 4 – Mrs Gardner	Wednesday 14 <sup>th</sup> October Wednesday 21 <sup>st</sup> October
Year 5 – Miss Millican	Wednesday 14 <sup>th</sup> October Wednesday 21 <sup>st</sup> October
Year 6 – Mr Colling	Thursday 15 <sup>th</sup> October Thursday 22 <sup>nd</sup> October

Next week, we will send an eschools invite for parents to book a slot on one of the given dates. Appointments will be available between 3:30pm and 5pm.

The aim of the phone call is for a quick 5-minute chat for staff to introduce themselves and to let you know how your child has settled back into school. Discussions will not take the format of a traditional Parents' Evening, and a more formal written report based upon your child's current attainment and ongoing targets will be issued next half term in lieu of our usual Autumn Term parents' consultations. Staff will not take offense if you do not feel that you require this opportunity at this moment in time (ie. That you're perfectly happy with how your child has returned to school and have nothing further to ask/discuss).

We will be sharing some curriculum information with parents in advance of the phone calls which will hopefully troubleshoot any more general issues and to share information around 'recovery' targets for the class – based on the teachers' current assessments.

It is important to note that if we have any particular concerns around how your child has settled back into school – especially with regards their well-being and involvement – we will make contact with you to arrange an alternative appointment to discuss these issues in greater detail. Likewise, should you have anything more pressing to discuss, we would ask that you make a telephone appointment with either your child's class teacher or a member of the Senior Leadership Team via the school office as you will not have the time to have this conversation within these slots and staff will have to stick to a strict timetable so as to ensure that others are not adversely affected.

#### COMMUNICATION VIA ESCHOOLS:

It is important that all parents/care-givers have access to eschools as this is the platform we use for all communications from school, and for parent consultation bookings. Contact the school office ([stmarysrcprimaryschool@gateshead.gov.uk](mailto:stmarysrcprimaryschool@gateshead.gov.uk)) asap if you do not have parental access (different to pupil access) to the service.

If you do not receive a weekly email with the News Bulletin (ie. You only access this via the app or website), this will mean that we do not have your correct email address in our system at school. Please contact the school office to confirm your email address with us.

#### CHANGE OF MORNING ROUTINE – RECEPTION CLASS:

Now that our Reception Class have had a few weeks to get used to our start of school arrangements, pupils can now be dropped off at Gate B (Duckpool Lane) in the morning. This should hopefully mean that families do not need to make a longer journey than required before school. If you have any concerns that this may cause confusion or distress, please just continue to use Gate C.

Please note, the routines for the end of the day will not be changing at this stage, and pupils must be collected from the assigned gate/at the assigned time unless a prior arrangement has been sought with Mr Wheatley due to access issues.

#### SACRAMENTAL PREPARATION:

Parents of children in Y5 will receive a communication regarding Sacramental Preparation for the Autumn Term. Whereas we have received guidance regarding the cohort of pupils who 'missed' the opportunity to prepare for and receive the Sacraments of Reconciliation and Holy Communion last academic year, we do not yet know what the likely plan will be for our current Y4 class. We will write to let you know as soon as we have any further information.

#### TIMETABLE CHANGES – PE:

This coming week, Y3 will have PE on Tuesday and Y5 will have PE on Thursday. Please ensure that your child attends school in full PE kit on the correct day. Thank you!

#### UNIFORM:

With the weather on the turn, it is vital that pupils have a coat with them in school each day. School hoodies or tracksuit tops can not be worn in place of a coat – both are required on the day your child has PE. Please make sure all items of clothing that come in to school are clearly labelled with your child's name.

#### REMINDER – SECONDARY ADMISSIONS:

Letters regarding secondary admissions for September 2021 have been sent home with pupils in Y6 this week. The closing date for secondary admissions is **31<sup>st</sup> October 2020**.

**UPCOMING – WALK TO SCHOOL WEEK AND DR BIKE:**

We will be encouraging as many families as possible to walk all, or part, of their journey to school on 5<sup>th</sup> October for National Walk to School week.

In order to further promote safe, active travel, our mate Ben Tweedie will be in school for a Dr Bike session on Monday 5<sup>th</sup> October. On this day, pupils in Y6 are invited to bring their bike to school for a health check. Ben will then return in Monday 19<sup>th</sup> October to lead some playground skills activities for Y6. We will remind you of this next week, but pupils bringing bikes/scooters must be able to walk their own bike/scooter through the gate and on to/from the yard themselves. No bikes/scooters are to be 'dropped off' or collected before or after the school day.

